

part-time employees and the reason for this bill is very simple. It was drafted at the request of the Nebraska Association of County Officials because a lot of the public safety county employees often begin their careers as early as age 20 or 21 and this simply gives them the opportunity after one year of service to opt into the county retirement system. So it reduces the age from 25 down to a more reasonable level which is the entry level for a lot of the employees of the system. Again, it was brought to us by the Nebraska Association of County Officials. It is a good bill. Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 349.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on LB 349? If not, the motion is to advance the bill from General File. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. We're voting on the advancement of LB 349 from General File. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 349.

PRESIDENT: LB 349 is advanced. LB 559.

CLERK: Mr. President, 559 was a bill that was introduced by Senator Hannibal. (Title read.) It was first read on January 22, referred to the Government Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 559 was brought to me by a constituent that suggested we had a little bit of a problem with our petition circulating laws and the bonding requirements thereto, looked into the situation and found indeed there was kind of a quirk in the law that we thought ought to be changed to ease the...or facilitate the circulation of petitions for initiative in the state. Presently if you as an individual volunteer want to circulate an initiative petition such as Initiative 300 or such as the cap on property taxes, whatever that initiative might be, you need to be bonded in order to do so if you're going to circulate that petition outside your county. The law states that you must be bonded for each individual's petition that you are going to circulate, each